

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: FARMERS MUTUAL COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY	DOCKET NO. 199 IAC 39.2(4)
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ORDER DESIGNATING ELIGIBLE CARRIER

(Issued November 7, 2002)

On October 15, 2002, Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company (Farmers) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application for universal service eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status in Iowa pursuant to 199 IAC 39.2(4). No objections have been filed regarding this application.

Board rule 39.2 provides a means by which the Board can designate Iowa telecommunications companies to be eligible to receive funding from the universal service fund, as defined by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 254. Under the Act (and the Federal Communications Commission regulations implementing the Act), the Board must determine that a carrier meets the following service requirements before it may be designated an eligible carrier as set forth in rule 39.2(4):

- 1) Offer the services supported by the federal universal service fund;

2) Offer the services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale (47 C.F.R. § 54.201(c) provides that "own facilities" includes purchased unbundled network elements);

3) Advertise the availability of the supported services, and,

4) Offer the services throughout the designated service area.

In its request for designation, Farmers states that it satisfies each of these requirements. Based on that representation, the Board finds that Farmers offers the services supported by the federal universal service fund, using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale. The Board also finds that Farmers advertises and offers the services throughout its designated service area.

The Board notes that pursuant to a recent federal mandate, Farmers is required to file a certification with the Board regarding its use of universal service funds. This filing will be made pursuant to the Board's recently adopted subrule 199 IAC 22.2(7), as described in Docket No. RMU-01-14.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Eligible telecommunications carrier status is granted to Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company as requested on October 15, 2002. The designated service area shall be Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company's service territory as established in its certificate of public convenience and necessity.

2. The Executive Secretary of the Utilities Board shall mail copies of this order to Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company, the Universal Service Administration Company, the Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Branch, and the Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 7th day of November, 2002.